

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as detailed below:

1. (Previously Presented) An electronic camera capable of setting a start information signal of the electronic camera without utilizing an external computer, the camera comprising:

a display unit for presenting information and a graphic representation of an object image taken by the camera; and

a rewritable memory for storing information signals including a plurality of frames of image information;

wherein the camera comprises a menu option coupled with a user input unit provided in the camera, the menu option and the user input unit enabling a user to select and set up a start information signal through the display unit from the information signals stored in the rewritable memory of the camera without connecting the camera to an external computer for setting the start information signal;

wherein the start information signal includes a start image and a start sound to be selected from information stored in the rewritable memory of the camera, the menu option and the user input unit further enabling the user to record a sound, the sound recorded being stored in the rewritable memory, and further enabling the user to select the sound recorded as the start sound of the camera.

2. (Original) The camera of claim 1, wherein the rewritable memory is a flash memory.

3. (Previously Presented) The camera of claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller, wherein said selecting and setting up the start information signal

through the display unit is enabled via execution of a start information setting algorithm with the microcontroller of the camera without utilizing the external computer.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The camera of claim 1 further including an external memory medium attachable to the camera and for storing information signals taken by the camera including a plurality of frames of image information.

7. (Original) The camera of claim 6, wherein the external memory medium is capable of storing information signals including a sound representation.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The camera of claim 7, wherein the selected start information signal is stored in the rewritable memory.

10. (Original) The camera of claim 9, wherein the camera allows selection of the start information signal indicative of at least one frame of image information.

11. (Original) The camera of claim 9, wherein the camera allows selection of the start information signal indicative of a sound representation.

12. (Original) The camera of claim 9, wherein the camera allows selection of the start information signal indicative of at least one frame of image information coupled with a sound representation.

13. (Original) The camera of claim 6, wherein the external memory medium is a memory card.

14. (Original) The camera of claim 1 further including user input means for facilitating the selection of a start information signal.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a digital camera which displays an object image while generating a digital image signal from light received from the object, stores the digital image signal in a memory medium attachable to the camera, and is capable of reproducing, at startup of the camera, a start information signal which can be set up by the user without utilizing an external computer for setting the start information signal, the method comprising the steps of:

recording or inputting a sound data;

storing the sound data in a flash memory of the camera for selection by the user as a start sound of the camera;

setting up a start information signal with a user input unit coupled with a menu option for setting the start information signal, said setting-up the start information signal being performed, through execution of a start information setting algorithm with a microcontroller of the camera and without ever connecting the camera to an external computer for selecting, configuring, customizing or setting the start information signal by the external computer, by selecting desirable start information from a group consisting of ~~a~~ of the sound data recorded or inputted by the user, image data stored in the memory medium, the sound data stored ~~in a~~ in the flash memory of the camera, and image data stored in the flash memory; and

storing data regarding the set-up of the start information signal in the flash memory.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein in the setting up step, when the start information signal is a start-image, a list of images stored in either the memory medium or the flash memory is presented for the selection by the user, and an image selected by the user is set up as the start-image.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein in the setting up step, when the start information signal is a start-sound, the user is allowed either to select from a list of sounds stored in the flash memory or to receive sound-recording data from the user for using as a start information signal.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein in the storing step, after an image data or a sound data is selected as the start information signal in the setting up step, the selected start information signal is stored in the flash memory.

20. (Previously Presented) An electronic camera capable of setting a start information signal of the electronic camera without utilizing an external computer, the camera comprising:

- a display unit for presenting information and a graphic representation of an object image taken by the camera;

- a memory card interface for interfacing with a memory card of a user and saving the object image taken by the camera;

- a flash memory coupled with a digital signal processor and for storing operation information for the camera;

- a user input unit for operating and setting up functions of the camera; and

- a menu option coupled with the user input unit of the camera, the menu option and the user input unit enabling a user to select and set up a start information signal

to be reproduced when power is applied, said selecting and setting up to be performed through the display unit without connecting the camera to an external computer for selecting, configuring, customizing or setting up the start information signal by the external computer, the start information signal including a start image and a start sound to be selected from information stored in the flash memory of the camera and in the memory card of the user;

the menu option and the user input unit further enabling the user to record a sound, the sound recorded being stored in the flash memory, and further enabling the user to select the sound recorded as the start sound of the camera.

21. (Previously Presented) The camera of claim 20, further comprising a microcontroller, wherein said selecting and setting up the start information signal is performed via execution of a start information setting algorithm with the microcontroller of the camera without utilizing the external computer.